

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 5 1. A method for facilitating input of information by a user into a form displayed on a display device, said form being arranged for receiving said input into one or more input fields of said form, said method comprising:
- 10 determining when a displayed cursor is positioned within a predetermined area relative to a first input field;
- accessing a data file containing a first extended information, said first extended information containing
- 15 information related to said first input field;
- displaying said first extended information in a first position on said display device; and
- 20 enabling said user to select a location on said display device for said first position.
2. The method as set forth in claim 1 and further including:
- 25 determining when a displayed cursor is positioned within a predetermined area relative to a second input field;
- hiding said first extended information when said displayed cursor is within a predetermined area relative to said
- 30 second input field;
- retrieving a second extended information, said second extended information containing information related to said second input field;

displaying said second extended information in a second position on said display device; and

5 enabling said user to select a location on said display device for said second position.

3. The method as set forth in claim 1 and further including:

10 enabling said user to select a presentation style for said display of said first extended information.

4. The method as set forth in claim 3 wherein said presentation style comprises presenting said first extended
15 information on said display device overlapping said first input field.

5. The method as set forth in claim 3 wherein said presentation style comprises presenting said first extended
20 information on said display device above said first input field.

6. The method as set forth in claim 3 wherein said presentation style comprises presenting said first extended
25 information on said display device to one side of said first input field.

7. The method as set forth in claim 3 and further including:

30 enabling said user to select a color in which said first input field is displayed on said display device.

8. The method as set forth in claim 1 and further including:

enhancing a display of said first input field relative to
other text on said form when it is determined that said
5 displayed cursor is positioned within a predetermined area
relative to said first input field.

9. The method as set forth in claim 8 wherein said enhancing
comprises magnifying said first input field relative to
10 other text on said form.

10. The method as set forth in claim 9 and further
including:

15 enabling said user to select a magnification level of said
first input field relative to said form.

11. The method as set forth in claim 8 wherein said
enhancing comprises maintaining relative size of said first
20 input field while diminishing appearance of other text on
said form.

12. The method as set forth in claim 1 wherein said first
extended information comprises information describing a
25 required format for input of information to said first input
field.

13. The method as set forth in claim 1 wherein said first
extended information comprises information describing a
30 definition related to said first input field.

14. The method as set forth in claim 1 wherein said first
extended information comprises information describing an
allowable range of data related to said first input field.

15. The method as set forth in claim 1 wherein said first
extended information comprises a work aid function operable
to aid said user in entering information to said first input
5 field.

16. A storage medium including machine readable coded
indicia, said storage medium being selectively coupled to a
reading device, said reading device being selectively
10 coupled to processing circuitry within a computer system,
said reading device being selectively operable to read said
machine readable coded indicia and provide program signals
representative thereof, said program signals being
selectively operable to facilitate input of information by a
15 user into a form displayed on a display device by effecting
the steps of:

determining when a displayed cursor is positioned within a
predetermined area relative to a first input field;
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accessing a data file containing a first extended
information, said first extended information containing
information related to said first input field;

25 displaying said first extended information in a first
position on said display device; and

enabling said user to select a location on said display
device for said first position.

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17. A system for processing user input of information into a
displayed form, said system comprising:

a system bus;

- a CPU device connected to said system bus;
- an input device connected to said system bus, said input
5 device being arranged to enable user input to said system;
- a display device connected to said system bus, said display
device being arranged to display a form for receiving said
user input into one or more input fields of said form;
- 10 means arranged for determining when a displayed cursor is
positioned within a predetermined area relative to a first
input field;
- 15 means for accessing a data file containing a first extended
information, said first extended information containing
information related to said first input field;
- means for causing a display of said first extended
20 information in a first position on said display device; and
- means for enabling said user to select a location on said
display device for said first position.
- 25 18. A method for facilitating input of information by a user
into a form displayed on a display device, said form being
arranged for receiving said input into one or more input
fields of said form, said method comprising:
- 30 determining when a displayed cursor is positioned within a
predetermined area relative to a first input field;

- accessing a data file containing a first extended information, said first extended information containing information related to said first input field; and
- 5 displaying said first extended information in a visually enhanced state relative to other content of said form.
19. The method as set forth in claim 18 wherein said first input field and said first extended information are both
- 10 presented in a magnified state within an extended information window, said first input field and said first extended information being magnified relative to other content of said form.
- 15 20. The method as set forth in claim 18 wherein user input to said first input field is displayed in said first input field of said form in said enhanced state.